(d) to what extent the development of Oil Industry in the country have succeeded in achieving the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) The proceeds of cess, levied under the provision of the Oil Industry (Development) Act, 1974, are first credited to the Consolidated Fund of India and the Central Government may, if Parliament by appropriation made by law in this behalf, so provides, pay to the Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB), from time to time, from out of such proceeds, after deducting the expenses of collection, such sums of money as it may think fit for being utilised exclusively for the purposes of the Act.

The Amount of cess paid by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), including ONGC's share in Joint Ventures, to the Central Government during the years 1996-97 to 1998-1999 has been around Rs. 6940 crore and the same, likely to be paid by them during the current year *i.e.* 1999-2000, will be around Rs. 2085 crore (provisionally).

During the period mentioned above, no appropriation has been made by the Central Goverment to OIDB out of the cess proceeds. From the funds available, OIDB continued to extend financial assistance to the oil industry in terms of Section 6(1) of the Oil Industry (Development) Act, 1974 during the period in question.

Supply of piped line gas in Gujarat

1632. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to supply piped line gas to Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Surat in Gujarat.

(b) if so, by when it will be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) The availability of gas being much less than the allocations already made to consumers in Gujarat, Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) has no proposal at present to supply piped gas in any of these cities. However, Gujarat Gas Company Limited a consumer of GAIL is supply piped gas in Surat.